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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ABUJA 002075

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SUBJECT: A/S FRAZER,S MEETING WITH NIGERIAN MFA RE
COTE-D,IVOIRE AND SUDAN

Classified By: Ambassador John Campbell for Reasons 1.4 (b) & (d).

1. (C) Summary: Assistant Secretary Jendayi Frazer met with Nigeria's Foreign Minister Oluyemi Adeniji on 24 October to discuss the Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire (CDI), and other issues. During the meeting, Adeniji was vague on many issues, but spoke generally about the need to push the Southern Sudan agreement and the next round of Darfur negotiations scheduled to begin next month. He said that CDI was the "immediate problem and discussed the next steps in the reconciliation process. He commented that the AU was "gearing up" to implement the observation of the Mauritania transition but said that "some issues would best be dealt with" by the current military regime. He pushed Obasanjo's scheme for "powersharing" as the solution for Liberia, commenting that the two candidates in the runoff should agree to cooperate. At the end of the meeting, he brought up to issue of Security Council expansion, asking if the USG supported two permanent African seats with the veto. End Summary.

2. (C) THE SUDAN: Assistant Secretary Jendayi Frazer met with Nigeria's Foreign Minister Oluyemi Adeniji on 24 October and opened the meeting with the situation in the Sudan. Adeniji said that Nigeria was pleased that a new cabinet had been announced but stated that the international community needs to "push on the southern agreement and resolve the Darfur crisis." He said that the latest round of talks ended "near agreement" and that he "expected rapid progress" in the next round of talks due to commence in late November. Adeniji expressed Nigeria's concern about the breakup of the SLM, saying "when liberation movements fracture, the potential is there for others to manipulate the groups."

3. (C) COTE D'IVOIRE: Turning to Cote d'Ivoire, Adeniji then said that CDI is "the immediate problem." He said that it was important to get "someone with real authority" as Prime Minister. "Seydou Diarra had no power base and President Gbagbo does not give him space to maneuver," he said. He commented favorably on the Security Council Resolution specifying roles and said that he hoped Gbagbo was "more realistic" on the need for a strong Prime Minister now. He said that "Obasanjo, Mbeki and Tanja were hoping to go as soon as the resolution came out" but did not give an indication whether Obasanjo still planned to travel given the loss of his wife.

4. (C) He commented that Gbagbo was initially skeptical about the role of ECOWAS, but had been surprised by the "fairness" of the organization. He said that Mali and Burkina Faso would be "brought in" when CDI's national dialogue is launched, but said that "Campaore is always willing to talk but never gives anything."

5. (C) MAURITANIA: Adeniji said that the African Union (AU) is "gearing up to implement its observation of Mauritania's promised reform process." He said that the GOM seemed willing to comply and that it was now "up to the AU to mobilize." Adeniji commented, however, that on human rights and corruption, the military regime was better able to handle the reforms. "Human rights and the issue of slavery can only be solved by this quasi-military regime," he stated. Responding to the Assistant Secretary, Adeniji said that the regime would be pushed to put a more civilian face on its governing council. He asked whether the A/S had consulted with Senegal's President Wade. The A/S mentioned her meeting with Wade at UNGA and noted his concern that "pushing too hard" would create the potential for "extremists" to stage a counter-coup.

6. (C) LIBERIA: Adeniji expressed his satisfaction that the first round of elections had gone smoothly and said that we now "have to get through the runoff." He said that Weah and Johnson had visited Abuja and that Obasanjo had tried to make them understand that "winner-take-all" does not work. "They both have talents to contribute," Adeniji said, "and they need to understand that their cooperation (with each other) is important."

7. (C) UN SECURITY COUNCIL EXPANSION: At the end of the meeting, Adeniji brought up the committee of African Heads of State (HoS) meeting on Security Council expansion. He said that another meeting of the 10 Heads of State is schedule for Monday, October 31 to try to reach consensus on the issue. He said that the Foreign Ministers had been meeting and had prepared a report. He pointed out that some of the Ministers

had included a statement in the report to the HoS that the USG supports the consensus position that Africa will get two permanent seats with veto power. Assistant Secretary stated that Security Council reform is part of the bigger issue of reform of the UN and that UNSC expansion will require further discussion about criteria for considering new permanent members. She made clear that the USG has not taken a position on the AU proposal but it was clearly overly ambitious. Adeniji complained that "the entire year has been take up with UN reforms" and that he would be happy to get the issue behind him.

18. (C) COMMENT: While Adeniji exhibited a breadth of knowledge, the depth of that knowledge was not apparent. It was obvious that on many issues, decision-making authority is restricted to President Obasanjo and dependent on his time and availability.
CAMPBELL